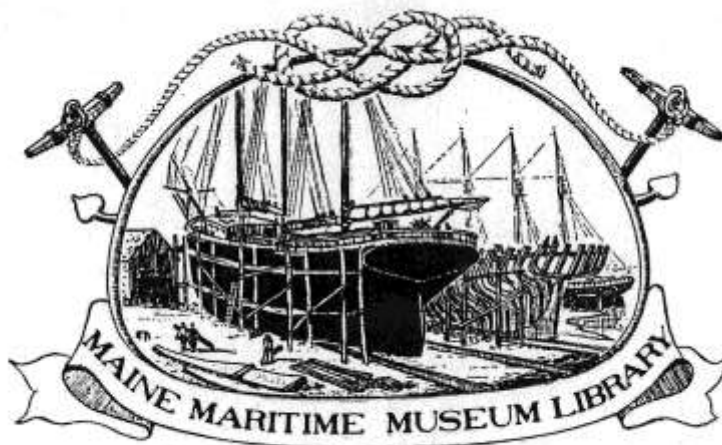


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**Inventory
for
Manuscript Collection
MS-467**

Captain Omar J. Humphrey Papers
Inclusive dates 1878- 1904

by
Nathan R. Lipfert

April 2016

Two folders
Accession # 2006.087.01

A PART OF THE CAPTAIN W. J. LEWIS PARKER BEQUEST

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Abstract

Humphrey, Omar J., *Captain* (1856 – 1942)

Papers, 1878 - 1904

Two folders

Ship captain of Yarmouth (ME), later of California and Seattle (WA).

Fragmentary group of random documents. Includes some crew accounts.

Some of the documents clearly reference Captain Omar J. Humphrey.

Bequeathed by Capt. W. J. Lewis Parker in 2006.

MS-467; Accession # 2006.087.01

Finding aid in repository; folder and item level control.

Added entries—places

Bath (ME)

Liverpool (ENG)

Oakland (CA)

Tacoma (WA)

Added entries—key terms

Merchant seamen

Ship captains

Acquisition

These papers of Captain Omar J. Humphrey were bequeathed to Maine Maritime Museum from the estate of Capt. W. J. Lewis Parker in November and December 2006.

Provenance

Capt. Parker was an extremely knowledgeable collector. He picked up many parts of his collection of maritime papers by purchase from dealers, auctions, or estate sales, and by gifts from relatives of maritime figures. We have found no documentation of how he acquired this particular group of manuscripts. These papers were found in his study with other similar items, and were part of his maritime library which he bequeathed to Maine Maritime Museum.

Restrictions

There are no restrictions on the use of these materials for study or research. Researchers should seek permission to obtain copies, and for publication of any sort.

Physical Condition

These volumes have the usual surface dirt and minor tears of late 19th-century documents. Overall, the Captain Omar J. Humphrey papers are in good condition.

Biographical/Historical Notes

Omar James Humphrey was born June 25, 1856 in Yarmouth (ME) to Captain James Joseph and Sarah Humphrey. He went to sea at an early age and in 1883 was mate in the Bath ship *Oracle*, commanded by Captain Samuel H. Morrison, when that vessel was lost. Later that year he married Capt. Morrison's daughter Emma and again went mate with Capt. Morrison, this time in the Sewall ship *Rainier*. This vessel was also wrecked, in the South Pacific in 1884. Morrison became the only Bath shipmaster to lose four vessels.

Humphrey went on to become a master mariner himself, but soon left sail and commanded steamers, mostly on the West Coast. By 1886 he was registered to vote in San Francisco, in 1892 he was living in Alameda (CA), and by 1910 was in Seattle, working on transportation and construction in the Northwest and Alaska, described at one point as a "capitalist." See the Maine Sea Captains Index at MMM.

He and Emma divorced, and the *Bath Daily Times* reported his remarriage in San Francisco to Ida May Roberts in 1901. The 1910 census for Seattle shows that Omar had been married to Eugenie (!) for four years, and they had a 3-year-old and a one-year-old child. Emma turned up in Seattle, too, in the 1920 census, boarding with a family. Omar and Eugenie stayed in Seattle at least through 1930. In the 1940 census Omar was living alone, single, in Cloverdale (CA). Eugenie or Eugenia continued to live in Seattle until her death in 1978.

Omar Humphrey returned to Maine occasionally, mentioned in the Bath newspapers. See also letters from him to Mark Hennessy in MS-53 B1F15. In 1932 he drove across the country to Yarmouth (ME) by auto, at the age of 75. He died in Cloverdale on April 25, 1942.

Scope and Content Notes

This is a very sparse and doubtful collection. Several items in it bear Capt. Humphrey's name, but nothing else makes it an obvious group. The first folder contains an envelope inscribed "Captn Humphrey" and a number of blank forms, including customs documents and a variety of commercial forms.

The second folder contains a receipt to O. J. Humphrey from the Oakland Gas, Light and Heat Company, a check on a Bath bank with the signature removed, and several accounts relating to merchant seamen, none of these latter with Omar Humphrey's name or a vessel's name.